

MEAN LAKE LEVELS DURING APRIL, 1927

By UNITED STATES LAKE SURVEY

[Detroit, Mich., May 5, 1927]

The following data are reported in the "Notice to Mariners" of the above date:

Data	Lakes ¹			
	Superior	Michigan and Huron	Erie	Ontario
Mean level during April, 1927:				
Above mean sea level at New York.....	Feet 601.41	Feet 578.78	Feet 571.75	Feet 245.97
Above or below—				
Mean stage of March, 1927.....	+0.10	+0.30	+0.65	+0.26
Mean stage of April, 1926.....	+1.31	+0.96	+0.94	+1.05
Average stage for April, last 10 years.....	-0.03	-1.06	-0.25	+0.06
Highest recorded April stage.....	-1.28	-4.45	-2.43	-2.46
Lowest recorded April stage.....	+1.31	+0.96	+0.94	+1.18
Average departure (since 1860) of the April level from the March level.....	+0.06	+0.23	+0.54	+0.59

¹ Lake St. Clair's level: In April, 1927, 574.15 feet.

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, APRIL, 1927

By J. B. KINCER

General summary.—At the beginning of the month temperatures were rather moderate, with an extensive storm area moving eastward over the interior valley States accompanied by unsettled, rainy weather. Following the passage of this low, a high-pressure area advanced eastward attended by somewhat lower temperatures, but thereafter it became warmer over Northern States. In the Southwest the weather was persistently warm with local reports in central Gulf districts of record high temperatures for so early in the season. Rainy weather continued in the interior States during the second decade with rain occurring every day during the first part with heavy to excessive rains over the lower Mississippi River further aggravating the already serious flood conditions that had prevailed along the trans-Mississippi States. Cessation of rains made more favorable weather during the last decade over central areas and temperatures continued abnormally high over eastern sections. Cooler weather overspread the central portions of the country about the 22d, and toward the close of the month sub-normal temperatures prevailed quite generally in most States east of the Rocky Mountains.

Temperatures were rather too cool for best growth of crops the first part of the month, especially in northern sections, but the moderate to abnormal warmth in central and southern portions favored rapid advance. In the interior valleys field work was delayed by continued rains or wet soil, and these conditions prevailed well into the second decade with some damage by heavy rains flooding lowlands and washing soil in parts of the southern Great Plains. Conditions were favorable for field operations during the latter part of the second decade in more Eastern States, but in parts of the Southeast rain was badly needed with some western Gulf districts and parts of the Southwest lacking moisture. The soil continued saturated in most central areas with a consequent delay in field work, and plowing and spring planting were seriously delayed, but toward the close of the month more favorable weather enabled farm work to advance wher-

ever the soil had dried out. The cold weather the latter part was decidedly unfavorable and more or less damage resulted to fruits and tender vegetation over a wide area from the southern Great Plains eastward to the Appalachian Mountains.

Small grains.—Good growing conditions for winter cereals prevailed quite generally during the first decade and the progress of the wheat crop was mostly satisfactory, except where moisture was needed in parts of the Great Plains area. The weather was mostly unfavorable during the second decade with heavy to excessive rains over the central and western portions of the wheat belt and some flooding and washing, but under the prevailing mild temperatures wheat made good advance where it was not too wet or flooded. Cool weather checked growth somewhat the latter part and toward the close there were complaints of plants yellowing on lowlands of the lower central valleys because of persistently wet conditions, but outside of the inundated districts generally good growth was reported.

Corn and cotton.—The persistently wet soil in most central sections considerably retarded the progress of corn planting and at the close of the month this work had progressed only as far north as southern Virginia and locally in the Ohio Valley, with planting begun in most portions of Kansas.

Cotton planting made fairly good advance in most portions the first part of the month, with seeding becoming more active toward the close of the first decade, although some central sections of the belt were too wet. The northeastern cotton districts were too dry and rain and warmer weather were needed, but in most other areas planting made satisfactory progress. It made good advance the latter part and was well along as far north as central South Carolina and extending into northern Georgia. Chopping was progressing in more southern districts. In Texas progress of the early crop was poor, due to cold, wet soil, and in other parts of this State dry weather with high winds was detrimental.

Ranges, pastures, and livestock.—Pastures made generally good advance during the month in most northern sections east of the Mississippi River, but in the Southeast rain was needed. Except for some local areas where it was too dry, ranges were mostly good in western areas. Livestock were in generally good condition, but some losses occurred in several States due to cold, stormy weather.

Miscellaneous crops.—Potato planting advanced during the month northward to South Dakota and the western Lake region and, except for some local frost injury, the crop did well generally. Truck crops also were favorably affected, except for some local frost injury and where the moisture was deficient, particularly in the Southeast. Sugar beets were mostly planted in Colorado at the close of the month and seeding was being rushed in Wyoming. Tobacco transplanting made good advance, but was awaiting warmer weather in some northern areas.

Fruits did well the first part of the month, but during the last decade more or less frost injury was reported from many sections in the south-central portions of the country. Citrus were affected adversely during most of the month in Florida, due to lack of rain, with much dropping reported at the close, but generally satisfactory condition prevailed in California.